

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

This document has been submitted by Ukraine as the regional representative of Europe[†].

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1. Introduction

This Report covers activities of the Parties within the European Region in the period between the 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011) and the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2012). This Report was compiled using contributions received from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Additional information for the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States was received from the European Commission.

2. Overview of major developments

Currently there are **48 Parties** to the Convention in the European Region, from which **33 Parties** adopted the Gaborone Amendment to article XXI of the Convention.

Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water (CITES MA) has signed an Instruction for cooperation with National Customs Agency and Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (Veterinarian and Phytosanitarian control) on

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increasing effectiveness of control over the export, trade, transit and export of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. The document describes all the necessary steps that should be taken by the relevant authority in control of shipments with CITES listed species according to the EU legislation.

The Czech Republic has amended its legislation on CITES and the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97. The amendment of the Act no. 100/2004 (Act on trade in endangered species) entered into force on the 1st February 2012. The main reason was the implementation of the new EU rules on trade in seal products. The English translation is available from the Czech MA.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate together with the Czech Customs confiscated altogether 34 very rare parrots and 56 turtles (Appendix I) as a result of twelve house searches in different breeder's facilities that took place throughout the Czech Republic in July 2011. Among the confiscated animals were 19 *Probosciger aterimus*, 5 *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, 6 *Amazona brasiliensis*, 2 *Amazona auropalliata*, 1 *Amazona vinacea*, 1 *Amazona pretrei* and 56 *Testudo hermanni*, respectively. The animals were kept illegally without proper documents or with forged ones or with manipulated marking. The action was part of the "Operation Festival" which had been prepared after the important seizure of *Anodorhynchus leari* during the "Operation Lora" in 2010. The action uncovered a ring of illegal traders in rare parrots and other endangered animals. The value of confiscated animals was estimated at 14 million Czech Crowns (ca 350 000 Euro).

Norway reported that the CITES Management Authority of Norway has just concluded on a new draft regulation for national implementation of CITES. The new draft will replace the old from 2002 and includes a more strict control of national trade and possession of CITES specimens. The new draft is also intended to strengthen the prosecution of violation of the regulation. In general the draft will be more similar to the existing regulation of the EU.

The Management Authority is in a process to establish a new policy on the establishment of a new scientific authority with a broad mandate of tasks, including CITES issues, transgenic organisms and risk analysis for alien species. The proposed policy will be presented to the Government for evaluation and future decision.

Russian Federation reported that during last meeting of Indian-Russian Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation (IRIGC-TEC) held in Delhi, 19 November 2010, it was proposed to establish a working group on the tiger and wildlife conservation. According to that proposal a Russian delegation visited India from 23 to 27 May 2011 to discuss monitoring and conservation of tiger population. The following topics for cooperation have been agreed:

- Scientific research
- Tiger reproduction and rehabilitation
- Monitoring and control of tiger movements, electronic control over tiger protected area
- Training of field ranger officers (Russian specialists in India and vice versa)
- Landscape planning and "wise green infrastructure" in tiger habitats
- Cooperation in fighting against poaching: strategy and planning
- Management of the model ecosystems as compared to India
- Exchange in personnel of protected areas in the field of tiger conservation.

Russia assists in restoration of extinct tiger populations in Iran and Republic of Korea. For that purposes Russian CITES MA has issued CITES permits for export to those countries the Amur tiger cubs bred in captivity in the Russian zoos. The Amur tiger occurring in the Russia is considered to be genetically close to extinct Turan tiger (*Panthera tigris virgata*).

Last years Russian CITES MA has issued permits for export of the Asian black bear cubs to the Republic of Korea for the purposes of restoration of its population in the wild in that country.

Russian CITES MA facilitates implementation of on-going programme on restoration of the Persian (Caucasian) leopard population in the Caucasus.

On 9–11 June 2012 the 6th meeting of Working Group on transboundary specially protected areas and biological diversity conservation, Sub-commission for environmental co-operation of the Commission for preparation of regular meetings of governments of Russia and China was held in Chita, Zabaykalsky Krai. Expert group for development of measures for the conservation of Changbaishan and Wandashan populations of the Amur tiger in the Russian-Chinese frontier areas has been established.

Ukraine reported that the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine which is a designated CITES Management Authority of Ukraine has issued Order No. 107 of 29 February 2012 "On adoption of forms for

export and import of specimens of wild fauna and flora, a certificate for travelling exhibitions, re-export and introduction from the sea of the specified specimens which are CITES regulated objects and a sample of application for their obtaining". The Order is registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 18 June 2012 under No. 990/21302.

Annually, more than 1 million of artificially bred young sturgeon fish are released into the water bodies of Ukraine to support natural populations of relevant sturgeon species.

UK activities in the reporting period

- Full participation on the review of the EU wildlife trade regulations; Council Regulation 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora and Commission Regulation 865/2006 which implements 338/97
- Taken the lead on rhino horn issues in the EU resulting in further strengthening of the UK/EU stricter measures on export/re-export of rhino horn by removing the high artistic value derogation for specimens.

3. Activities of the regional representatives

The European Commission: CITES is implemented in the European Union through Council Regulation 338/97/EC of 9 December 1996¹ on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

The European Commission is currently revising the Implementing Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 in order to implement certain Resolutions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in order to ensure that the Regulation is implemented in a harmonised and efficient manner within the Union.

The European Commission is preparing a new Regulation reflecting recent changes to CITES Appendix III.

The European Commission is currently updating Commission Regulation (EC) No 997/2010 suspending the introduction into the Community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

On 31 May 2012, a Council Decision regarding the listing of porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix III of the CITES Convention was adopted. This decision was subsequently transmitted to the CITES Secretariat on the same day. This listing was included in Notification No 2012/044 issued by the CITES Secretariat on 27 June 2012.

Implementation

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, met four times in 2011 and will have met twice in 2012 by the time of SC 62. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the Member States' Scientific Authorities and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the Regulations, met four times in 2011 and so far twice in 2012. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met twice in 2011 and so far once in 2011. This group plays a key role for exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities.

Germany

CITES Capacity building:

Following an invitation of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (CITES Management Authority), co-organized by the GIZ ("Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH") Germany, one expert from Germany's CITES Management Authority took part in a fact-finding mission conducted from 14. to 18. May 2012 in the Kyrgyz Republic dealing with different aspects of implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The mission has contributed to enhance implementation and enforcement of CITES in the Kyrgyz Republic. A report was conducted and will be provided by that CITES MA.

¹ OJ L 61 of 3.3.1997, p. 1

Within the scope of an EU-Commission funded Twinning-project with a CITES implementation component one official from **Germany's** CITES Management Authority has contributed as lecturer to a CITES training seminar for national customs and CITES enforcement officers in Belgrade, Serbia from 2 to 6 April 2012 and in a "Train the Trainers" workshop for key stakeholders regarding enforcement of environmental legislation in Zagreb, Croatia on 10 October 2011.

Norway acts as chair of the Standing Committee and has been actively involved in relevant activities with the Secretariat, and attending different meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees.

Switzerland reported that the Swiss Federal Council has adopted a new CITES legislation which will enter into force beginning of 2013. Major changes concern the permit requirements, the strengthened possibilities for controls within the country and the considerably higher penalties that can be spoken for cases of illegal trade.

UK activities in the reporting period

- UK chairs the CITES e-commerce working group and coordinates EU views for that group
- UK chairs the CITES rhinoceroses working group and coordinates EU views for the group
- Member of the CITES Animals Committee representing European views. UK assisted Switzerland with preparation of the European regional report for the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (<http://www.cites.org/common/com/AC/26/E26-27-04.pdf>)
- UK funding towards to two Interpol operations Projects Predator and Wisdom.

4. Regional cooperation

Bulgaria reported that representatives from the Management and Scientific Authorities, and NGOs have participated in the Seminar "Implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in CEE region" organized by the Polish Organization Salamander, 7-9 December 2011.

Bulgarian representatives from Management Authorities and Customs have participated on the regular meeting organized by European Commission on implementation on EU CITES Legislation.

During the period 26 March – 06 April 2012 The National Customs Agency participated in a joint customs operation with main targets as follows: illegal movement of endangered species, protected by CITES, hazardous wastes, chemicals and pesticides, ozone depleting substances, illegal trade in timber etc.

The operation included Southeast Europe countries as well as Central Europe countries, but not only.

Bulgarian CITES MA has coordinated at the country level the Interpol's operation 'CAGE' (1–27 May 2012) which main focus was activities against the wild bird crime. The operation was executed in collaboration between Ministry of the Environment and Water Customs Agency, Border Police and local Police offices in the country.

Belgium reported that Belgian Customs and Federal Police do regularly make use of the EU-TWIX list-server to share information on seizures and others related enforcement subjects with colleagues of CITES authorities in other EU Member States.

Belgian Customs did participate to the WCO GAPIN project (Great Apes and Integrity) which aimed to fight against illicit trafficking in wildlife, focused on trans-national trafficking in great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, and bonobos) and other wildlife items such as elephant ivory tusks, rhinoceros horns and their derivatives and to enhance Customs integrity in the area of CITES enforcement. The Workshop on the CITES and Integrity took place in December 2010.

This project WCO GAPIN was launched in Mombasa in December 2010 and ended in March 2011 in South Africa where the debriefing of the project took place. It was provided by representatives from all 14 African countries, as well as Belgium, China. Belgian Customs participated in these two events and led a specific controlling action in the framework of this project at Brussels International Airport early 2011. In Belgium, two additional officers joined the work of the Group Anti-Drugs (GAD) team at Brussels International Airport. The team was also supported by the "Scan-team" with x-ray machines that scanned all high-risk shipments and luggage from Africa on a daily basis.

This action was successful as Belgian Customs did seize, at this occasion, large amounts of ivory, dried seahorses and bush meat in 11 seizures. The details can be found in the Report on the Great Apes and Integrity (GAPIN) Operation edited on June 2011.

Belgian Customs did also participate in December 2011 to an ICCWC Workshop on Establishing a Network of Controlled Delivery Units for Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement at the WCO Regional Training Centre in Shanghai Customs College in China. Its purpose was to train Prosecutors, Customs and Police officers from up to 20 candidate countries in controlled delivery techniques associated with forest and wildlife law enforcement.

Belgian Police are currently involved in the EUROPOL investigation "Rathkeale Rovers" which aims to uncover the illegal trade in rhino horns which is very active for the moment in the whole of the European Region. No more detailed information available on 2 July 2012.

In February, March and June 2012, participation of one person (for each action: 4 actions in total) of the Belgian CITES Management Authority to the 'Ebola action'. This is a joint action conducted at Brussels and Gosselies (Brussels south) by the Belgian customs in cooperation with the Belgian federal agency for the safety of the food chain and Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products. The aim of this action was the systematic check of passenger's luggages from third countries, especially Africa and Asia. The major seizures were smoked fishes, bushmeat, cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, fruits and only a few leather items in CITES reptiles.

The Czech Republic in cooperation with Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, **Switzerland**, had organized one-day meeting of the CITES SC Working Group on E-permitting this WG in Prague on 27 April 2012, chaired by Switzerland, chair of this SC WG. The meeting was attended by WG members and observers from the CITES Secretariat, France, Switzerland, UK, Czech Republic, UNEP-WCMC and IFAW.

European Commission

MIKE: The European Commission contributes EUR 9.814.000 to establishing a long-term system for monitoring the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE). This project runs over a period of 5 years (until the end of 2012) and is considered as contributing to the EC Development Policy objectives to reduce poverty as it entails a support for sustainable economic, social and environmental development, based, inter alia, on the wise use of natural resources. The continuation of the funding of the project is currently under discussions.

CITES-ITTO project: further to a first EUR 2,5 million funding, the European Commission, with co-funding from other partners, agreed to a second contribution (EUR 5 million) to the CITES-ITTO project ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. This project will assist the relevant countries in meeting the scientific, administrative and legal requirements for management and trade in these timber species. It will provide capacity building for scientific authorities to make "non-detriment findings" for the harvest of these species and the development of regional management plans by supporting co-operation between countries.

CoP15 decisions: In order to assist in the implementation of certain decisions adopted at CoP15, the European Commission in 2010 awarded a grant to the CITES Secretariat for an amount of 500.000 EUR with a view to improve the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and achieve greater synergies with other Conventions and organisations. This grant covered the activities of better implementation of and compliance with the Convention, effective enforcement of the Convention and improving species management and the scientific basis for implementation of the Convention.

CITES Capacity building: The European Commission is supporting a "CITES capacity building project" by the CITES Secretariat to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade. It focuses on regional training workshops and certain in-country follow up capacity building activities following a needs assessment process. A first contract was awarded for an amount of 1 million EUR. This project has been complemented through a second phase (Country focused project) to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade. The amount for this second phase is 1,5 million EUR.

Greece reported that there is a close cooperation between the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, which is the Greek Central CITES Management Authority, with all its regional CITES Management Authorities, which are distributed all over Greece, dealing with the implementation of the CITES Convention, and the Ministry is also in close business with the Greek enforcement authorities when this is requested.

Turkey reported that by November 2011 the EU Twinning Project TR/2009/IB/EN/02 has been started. The project is part of the "Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementations" and has a running

period of 24 months. A Twinning partner for the Turkish CITES MA is the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain.

Completed activities are listed below.

All the following activities were done together with the Spain short term experts.

1) The Project Working Group met many times up to now. All relevant institutions participated to these Working Group meetings. During these meetings guidelines on granting CITES permits the development, project time table, problems and suggestions related to the project were discussed.

2) Training Programmes for Inspectors and Experts;

- a) The first basic level CITES Training Programme took place on March 5 to 8, 2012, in Ankara
- b) The second basic level CITES Training Programme took place on June 4 to 7, 2012 in Kocaeli

3) Regarding the disposal of seized specimens;

Inspection tour of potential rescue centres in Turkey (25 June – 3 July 2012)

- a) Zoo in Ankara
- b) Zoo in Gaziantep

4) Regarding Border Control Procedure (8 to 15 June 2012)

- a) Atatürk Airport Customs in Istanbul
- b) All customs points in Ankara.

Sweden reported that the Swedish police and custom has over the last months been cooperating with the Finnish customs in several cases of illegal egg collecting. These cases are under investigation.

Ukraine reported that the seminar "Implementation of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the CEE region", was held on 7-9 December 2011 in Poznań, Poland. The representatives from Scientific and Management Authorities from CEE countries including Ukraine attended the seminar. The main goal of this seminar was to facilitate the implementation of the CITES and the EU wildlife trade regulation in Central and Eastern Europe.

19–22 October 2011 the 23rd session of the Russian-Ukrainian Commission on Fishery in the Sea of Azov was held in Volna, Krashodar Krai, Russian Federation. Zero export quotas had been agreed for all Azov surgeon species. The results on co-operation in the field of molecular-genetic studies of surgeon species were reported. Further scientific consultations on genetic studies of surgeons have been agreed to continue in 2012.

UK activities in the reporting period

- Project Gapin II UKBF will be delivering capacity building training in Brussels for the WCO
- UK Border Force (UKBF) undertook a key role in the design and delivery of a EU CITES training programme, which is now available as a CD Rom for all MS to use
- UK organised workshops on reptile ID and timber as part of the EU-TWIX initiative
- Provision of UKBF experts for a number of European wide training events
- Delivery of training material as part of a EU twinning project with Serbia
- UK attended the 2012 European enforcement seminar on the use of wildlife detector dogs
- UK is a member of the Review of Significant trade working group
- UK is a member of the EU eels working group and attended the EU joint experts in May 2012
- UK is a member of the Personal and Household Effects working group
- Provided assistance to the Georgian SA on NDF's for geophytes.

5. Meetings and workshops

Bulgaria reported that several seminars on the implementation of EU CITES, veterinarian and phytosanitarian legislations were organized. As participants to those seminars were invited officers from veterinarian and phytosanitarian border control, Border Police, Customs Agency and Regional Environment Inspectorates (REW). As a lecturer in respect to the CITES provision in all seminars was expert from the Ministry of Environment and Water (CITES MA). The seminars are as follow:

- During the period 12-14 September 2011 the CITES MA provided joint training to the staff of the Regional Environment Inspectorates (REW), Rescue Centres, Customs Authority and Police about the implementation of the Convention. REW are responsible for regulation of the domestic trade with CITES listed species.
- During the period 16-17 November 2011 the CITES MA provided joint training to the staff of the Customs Authority, Veterinarian and Phytosanitarian Authority at Capitan Andreevo Border Control Point at the Bulgarian-Turkish border.
- During the period 23-24 February 2012 the CITES MA provided joint training to the staff of the Customs Authority, Veterinarian and Phytosanitarian Authority at Kalotina Border Control Point at Bulgarian-Serbian border.
- During the period 29-30.03.2012 the CITES MA provided joint training to the staff of the Customs Authority, Veterinarian and Phytosanitarian Authority at Sofia Airport Border Control Point.
- During the period 11-12 July 2012 will be hold a joint training to the staff of the Customs Authority, Veterinarian and Phytosanitarian Authority from Border Control Points in Varna and Burgas area. The respective offices are in charge of control on the local airports and sea ports.

The Border Points Capitan Andreevo, Kalotina and Sofia Airport are officially designated for introduction and export of live specimens of animals listed under CITES.

Belgium participated to all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level since August 2011:

61st meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, 15-19 August 2011)
 European Regional CITES Plants Meeting (Tbilisi, Georgia, 19-21 September 2011)
 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin, 22-24 March 2012)
 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (Dublin, 22-30 March 2012)

23rd Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 10-11 November 2011)
 24th Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 18-19 April 2012)

56th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 10 October 2011)
 57th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 15 December 2011)
 58th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 13 February 2012)

57th Scientific Review Group Meeting (07 October 2011)
 58th Scientific Review Group Meeting (2 December 2011)
 59th Scientific Review Group Meeting (23 February 2012)
 60th Scientific Review Group Meeting (7 June 2012)

During the period August 2011 – June 2012, the Belgian CITES Management Authority coordinated 2 meetings of the Belgian CITES Enforcement Group (08.11.2011 and 07.05.2012). During the same timeframe, the Belgian CITES Scientific Authority met on 4 occasions (03.10.2011, 28.11.2011, 16.02.2012 and 04.06.2012).

In November 2011, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a three CITES training days to Customs working at Liège-Bierset Airport.

In December 2011, Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on CITES legislation applicable for the CITES birds to International Pheasants and Waterfowl Association in Anvers.

In February 2012, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a CITES training day to Veterinarians attached to the Animal Welfare and CITES Inspection Service of Public Federal Service Public Health.

In February 2012, Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on CITES legislation applicable for the Orchids to a belgian association of orchids keepers 'Orchidophiles Réunis de Belgique' in Braine-Lalleud.

In March and April 2012, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave three CITES training days to Customs working at Charleroi-Gosselies Airport.

In June 2012, the head of the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on CITES legislation at a training day organized in Leuven, by the police on the control and handling of animals.

Croatia

Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection as the CITES MA in Croatia organised a training module “Capacity building for implementation of EU wildlife trade legislation” from May 16 to June 16, 2012, that was financed by the Loan Agreement with the World Bank (IBRD 8021-HR).

Five (5) regional workshops were held in different regions of Croatia with a total of 157 participants.

Trainers who held the lectures were from the CITES MA and SA in Croatia, Nature Protection Inspection and Customs Administration Central Office.

A training program was aimed at filling the knowledge gaps, increasing the know-how of CITES and EC regulations, exchange of practical experience and elaboration of working procedures of the involved agencies.

A manual “Transboundary movement and trade in protected species and CITES Convention” developed in 2009 was used for the workshops and was disseminated to all participants.

Czech Republic

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (the national CITES Scientific Authority) has published a book with the methodology of marking the CITES animals (ISBN 978-80-87457-24-5, Praha 2011, 36 pp). The book is in Czech and is available in paper or electronic form from the Czech SA.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate developed a Czech text-book and an e-learning course about CITES and its enforcement based on the material from the CITES Secretariat and the EU CITES Enforcement Group.

The following CITES workshops for the state authorities and the public were organized in the Czech Republic:

- Two 2-day workshops “The CITES evergreens” in Modrice near Brno, October 2011, and Sedlacký Dvůr near Humpolec, May 2012, were organized by the Czech SA and opened to the public with the participation from the Slovak Republic as well. The latter workshop was also dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the accession of the former Czechoslovakia to CITES
- A 3-day workshop on wildlife crime for the enforcement authorities, prosecutors etc. was organized by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in November 2011 in Zeliv. Participants from the Slovak Republic took part as well
- The South-Bohemian University in České Budějovice organized a 2-day workshop “The Questions about CITES” in October 2011 aimed at the general public, zoological and botanical gardens etc.

Georgia reported that the CITES European Regional Meeting on Plants was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 19-21 September, 2011.

The following topics were covered during the meeting:

- Trade in Bulbs
- Trade in Medicinals, Cosmetics and Pharmaceuticals
- CITES timber trade
- CITES Enforcement in the European Region

Simultaneously to the meeting above the CITES Enforcement Training Workshop was organized in Tbilisi on the 23rd of September, 2011 for enforcement officers. Workshop was organized with the support of Mr. Guy Clarke (GC), Heathrow CITES Team, UK Border Agency and Ms. Madeleine Groves (MG), CITES Implementation Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK CITES Scientific Authority for Plants.

Topics covered during the workshop includes following:

- Introduction to CITES – an Enforcement Officers View
- CITES Species in Trade
- CITES Permits and Trade
- Trade Trends and Smuggling

Meeting of the Georgian and Dutch bulb traders was organized on the 23rd of September, 2011. Issues related with the bulb trade between Georgia and Netherlands were discussed during the meeting.

The European Commission representing the European Union attended as observer the 61st CITES Standing Committee in 2011 as well as the CITES Animals and Plants Committees in 2012, where it participated in a number of working groups.

Furthermore, the European Commission attended the meeting of the Working group on Introduction from the sea which took place in the US in May 2012.

The European Commission also participated in the Meeting of the Advisory Working Group on the Review of Significant Trade, 25 – 27 June 2012.

Norway recently concluded a nationwide series of full day workshops for local customs offices, including participants of the Food and Health Authorities and the police. 10 different workshops have been conducted in 2012 at different locations. These workshops have strengthened the contacts between the different agencies including exchange of information. The national CITES committee has also continued its work on exchange of information and coordination. This committee includes participants from national authorities: CITES MA, customs, police, food and health authority and the drug administration.

Slovak Republic has organised several training seminars regarding CITES issues:

- 6 September 2011: training of new district officers
- 1 December 2011: training of prosecutors and judges
- 6 March 2012: training of customs officers of Bratislava Customs Office (airport and mail offices)
- 27 March 2012: training of customs officers of Michalovce Customs Office (borders with Ukraine)
- 24 April 2012: training of district officers (falsification CITES documents)
- 19 June 2012: training of district officers (falsification CITES documents)

Slovak CITES Management Authority has participated also at regional meeting in Czech Republic on 27 October 2011 (presentation about national CITES legislation).

Sweden participated at the following CITES meetings since August 2011 :

- 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, 15-19 August 2011)
- 23rd Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 10-11 November 2011)
- 24th Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 18-19 April 2012)
- 56th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 10 October 2011)
- 57th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 15 December 2011)
- 58th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 13 February 2012)
- 57th Scientific Review Group Meeting (07 October 2011)
- 58th Scientific Review Group Meeting (2 December 2011)
- 59th Scientific Review Group Meeting (23 February 2012)
- 60th Scientific Review Group Meeting (7 June 2012)

Since 2011 the Swedish CITES Management Authority is coordinating two (2) meetings per year for all Swedish authorities involved in CITES related crimes. The meetings are highly appreciated by all participants, and they help us identify and manage gaps that might occur when different authorities are working on the same issue.

The Swedish CITES Management Authority is working actively with general and targeted information about CITES legislation, and on request from both local and other authorities educational-programs are held (one day each). One target group are animal welfare inspectors and police officers whom confiscate and take care of animals due to animal welfare reasons.

Ukraine attended the CITES European Regional Meeting on Plants that was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 19-21 September, 2011.

Scientific and technical seminar "Conservation of the sturgeon fishes in the Azov-Black Sea Basin" was held on 31 May 2012 in Dniprovsk, Kherson oblast, Ukraine, where current problems related to sturgeons were discussed.

UK activities in the reporting period

- Scientific Authority (JNCC/Kew) participation in all SRG meetings
- Attendance at all Plants and Animals Committee meetings including provision of an enforcement officer (UKBF) as part of the UK delegation at PC20
- UK attendance at all EU Management Committee meetings
- UK has attended all meetings of the Standing Committee and in our capacity as a member of Standing Committee for the European region, coordination of EU Member States positions for Standing Committee
- UK enforcement officers have attended all EU enforcement working group meetings
- UK currently a member of the Coalition against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) which raises awareness globally of illegal trade in wildlife. UK has organised a number of meetings for CAWT members whilst holding the Chair (until end of April 2012)
- UK SA (Kew) and UK Border Force attended the European Regional CITES meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, Sept 2011. UK presented a number of talks on NDF work on geophytes and annotations along with the provision of a one-day CITES workshop for Georgian enforcement and policy staff
- UK SA (Kew) provided and taught a number of modules for a workshop on illegal timber trade with a focus on CITES wood species in France, October 2011
- UK co-chairing and participating in a workshop on the Review of Significant Trade, Vilm, Germany, June 2012

6. Problems faced by the regional representatives

The Gaborone amendment to CITES would allow the European Union to become a Party to CITES and to play a full role in the work of the Convention. The European Commission continues to use any bilateral and multilateral contacts with Parties that have not yet ratified the Gaborone amendment to encourage its ratification. Via Notifications 2009/019 and 2010/039 to CITES Parties, the CITES Secretariat urged Parties which have not done so yet to accept the Gaborone amendment to CITES.